UNITED NATIONS **S**

Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

S/1994/926
3 August 1994

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

LETTER DATED 3 AUGUST 1994 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF ANGOLA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

I have the honour to transmit the following letter from Mr. Venancio de Moura, Minister of External Relations of the Republic of Angola, with the request that it be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Afonso VAN-DUNEM "MBINDA"
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

Annex

Letter dated 27 July 1994 from the Minister of External Relations of Angola to the Secretary-General

Once again, it is an honour and a privilege to express to you and all those who are contributing towards the restoration of peace and national reconciliation in Angola the appreciation and recognition of the Government of Angola.

It was, therefore, with a certain apprehension and indignation that my Government read your last report to the Security Council regarding the United Nations Angola Verification Mission (UNAVEM II) (S/1994/865), which was submitted pursuant to Security Council resolution 932 (1994) of 30 June 1994.

Unfortunately, your analysis of the military situation in Angola leaves the impression, in paragraphs 12 to 22, that the Government of Angola has unleashed a widespread offensive, in order to militarily neutralize the União Nacional para a Independência Total de Angola (UNITA). This underestimates the legitimate rights of the Government of Angola, earned by way of multiparty, democratic elections, to defend national territory and sovereignty, in compliance with international law and pertinent Security Council resolutions.

On the other hand, we noted in your report some demeaning and offensive references to the exercise of sovereignty of a United Nations Member State. The report points out the Government's decision to call young men from around the country into military service in accordance with existing law - as if this were an illegal act.

The Government of Angola reiterates its position of finding a fair political and negotiated solution, under the framework of the Bicesse Accords and pertinent resolutions of the Security Council, and respecting the results of the September 1992 elections.

There also appears in your report a certain tendency to make the conclusion of negotiations in Lusaka depend on the results of the efforts voluntarily undertaken by President Nelson Mandela of South Africa, as well as by other regional Heads of State.

The Security Council itself has already repeated, on 30 June, that since the mediation proposal is a global package, any response should not violate the principle established by resolution 932 (1994).

Therefore, in the opinion of the Government of Angola, these initiatives only assist and reinforce the mediation and are not a substitute for it, as some have attempted to imply with public declarations, whose origins have been identified as doubtful and libellous. In this context, UNITA should respond globally and unequivocally, as the Government has done, to the mediation proposal, which constitutes the basis for the conclusion of the negotiations in Lusaka.

In paragraphs 23 to 30 of your report, you state that both parties are responsible for the deterioration of the humanitarian situation, instead of putting the blame solely and exclusively on UNITA. Even worse, the report asserts that a certain apathy and indifference exists in both parties regarding the suffering of the Angolan people, when you have a Special Representative and several special United Nations organizations in Angola working closely with the Government.

These statements extremely surprised my Government in view of the fact that it is public knowledge that the Government of Angola has continuously made efforts to assist the population affected by this crisis, independent of the areas in which they may be located.

Mr. Secretary-General, the international community is also aware of the fact that it has been UNITA that has been using the humanitarian assistance as a political weapon, carrying this so far as to attack food columns and shoot at aircraft of the World Food Programme and other humanitarian organizations. At the same time, it also undertakes actions that impede the distribution of humanitarian aid to those in need. The attack by UNITA on a 15-vehicle column of the World Food Programme and the detention in Huambo of 67 United Nations and non-governmental organization workers on a strictly humanitarian mission are recent examples you remember well.

At the moment in which redoubled efforts make one feel pulled from all sides, with a view to concluding a global peace accord, the Government of Angola notes with deep concern and indignation that your report, instead of pressuring UNITA and its leader to conform to the will of the Angolan people for peace and democracy, to accept the proposals of the mediation and to fulfil the pertinent resolutions of the Security Council, implicitly concedes to Mr. Savimbi elements that permit him to continue the war and to challenge the international community. For the Government of Angola, this constitutes a retreat from positions previously taken by the Security Council.

In conclusion, and considering the difficulties experienced in our common efforts to bring UNITA to negotiate with seriousness and good faith, and still bearing in mind all the manoeuvres and the tendency to confuse the violators of agreements and pertinent resolutions of the Security Council with the legitimately and democratically elected Government, permit us to call to your attention a matter of great importance. I refer to the future politico-military and social consequences, should UNITA not sign, as one might foresee, the Lusaka obligations, arduously negotiated over almost nine months, under the mediation of your Special Representative, and assisted by Portugal, the Russian Federation and the United States of America.

Therefore and finally, in the name of peace and of the credibility of the organization you direct during this month of profound and difficult transformations in the international arena, my Government encourages you to

proceed with all efforts in search of just solutions for the problems that affect humanity and the Angolan people in particular.

(Signed) Venancio de MOURA
Minister of External Relations